

Panhandle Forest Collaborative (PFC) Forest Projects Committee  
Teleconference Minutes  
November 4, 2014

**Present:** Brad Smith, Mike Petersen, Glen Bailey, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Bob Boeh

**Facilitator:** Karen DiBari

## **Bottom Canyon (BC)**

### Overview

- Scoping comments are due November 9, 2014
- The group decided to highlight several questions in a letter to Chad Hudson
- Issues
  - Pocket gopher
  - FS proposed action compared to PFC project area
  - Road decommissioning
- Procedures
  - In accordance with the protocols, individual members are free to submit their own comments on BC as long as they don't conflict with PFC recommendations and/or attack the collaborative process. By voting a sideways or thumbs up, members have agreed not to appeal or litigate on the BC project.

### Specific Issues

- Pocket gopher
  - The group present decided to ask the Forest Service (FS) to explore mechanical traps instead of trapping, comparing cost and effectiveness. Concerns were raised about the impact of poisoned pocket gophers on other wildlife that eat them.
- FS proposed action compared to PFC project area
  - Several members had closely studied the FS proposed action and PFC-recommended project areas, and didn't see any substantive differences.
- Road decommissioning
  - Under the umbrella of road decommissioning, some roads have already been treated in previous actions but the FS is including them in this project in order to officially change them in the database. The group decided to ask the FS for

clarification about where the active road treatments are planned (and # of miles) and where/#acres are being changed in the database.

- Discussion about whether to comment on the roads that are in the scoping notice that are outside of the PFC-recommended project area. FS is planning to drop them from the proposal. Decision to not comment on them because they had not been dealt with by the PFC.
- Note of thanks
  - The group supported including a note of appreciation to Chad and his staff for basing the proposed action on the PFC recommendations
- Next steps
  - Karen will draft a letter for circulation to the full PFC membership, asking for responses by close of business Thursday. The intent is to submit the letter on Friday. Members will be asked to respond via email with their edits/support of the letter. Since this letter does not take any positions or make recommendations but merely flags issues for further discussion with Chad and his staff, if there is no response from a PFC member, the assumption is that the person is supportive.

### **Membership Issues**

- Paul Sieracki has filed a Freedom of Information Act request to the IPNF for GIS data layers on roads and harvest units for Bottom Canyon. This is a violation of the protocols and standard PFC practice of working through Mike as the point of contact on Bottom Canyon. This issue will be discussed at the November 13 meeting and action taken. The group discussed how Paul has provided valuable input and GIS capacity to the group, and regret that by his action, he is separating himself from the PFC.
- Kajsa raised the issue of her participation in the Forest Projects Committee as a representative of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. She wants to be able to participate in the Forest Projects Committee and raise water quality issues. The group thanked her for the valuable resource information she has provided and expressed that they don't see a conflict.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- November 13, 2014 – PFC meeting, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., Sandpoint DO
- December 8, 2014 – Forest Projects Committee meeting with Chad Hudson and staff, 1:00 p.m., Fernan DO